

NRFSN Fiscal Year 2012 Consortia Annual Progress Report

1. How did things go during the year? Are you on track?

Our first year of implementation began in March 2012. We are on track with Year 1 deliverables (web development, bi-monthly newsletter, year one annual workshop, initial syntheses). Based on the intense fire season in the Northern Rockies, we have had trouble working with managers to schedule fieldtrips for Fall 2012. However, managers and scientists are excited about the fieldtrips, and we plan to begin fieldtrips in Spring 2013. We are currently developing the NRFSN logic model.

2. Do you have any issues or concerns which the Program Office should know about?

After our first seven months of implementation (March-September), we have done an initial assessment of our workload vs capacity. To date, we are on track; however, we will continue to assess the number of fieldtrips, syntheses, and briefs that we have the capacity to provide in a given year. As stated in #1, we will not initiate the fieldtrips until Spring 2013. Based on direction received at the 2012 all consortia meeting, we are not planning to assess research needs annually, as was originally stated in our proposal. In addition to our original list of deliverables, we have agreed to host an IFT-DSS evaluation workshop and we are partnering in the development of two upcoming regional conferences and workshops (Whitebark Pine Foundation Workshop in Bozeman and joint AFE-IAWF Conference in Missoula). We have also taken the lead on several cross-consortia outreach efforts, including developing and championing outreach for an all-consortia poster, organizing a consortia special session at the Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference, and co-chairing a consortia special session at the upcoming AFE Congress.

3. Briefly describe efforts of collaboration and coordination with other partnerships?

Our first year of implementation features the following collaborations and partnerships:

- 1) We share a communication coordinator with the Great Northern LCC (GNLCC). This has been a great way to collaborate with the GNLCC. The shared coordinator cross-posts events between the two newsletters and facilitates cross-pollination of knowledge, products, and events.
- 2) We share a web developer from the University of Idaho's Northwest Knowledge Network with FRAMES. This has fostered good two-way communication with FRAMES about best practices, resource hosting, etc.
- 3) We partner with the Montana State University office of the Montana University System Institute on Ecosystems, which enables us to share web resources with science and science delivery organizations such as the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and the GNLCC.
- 4) We are collaborating with scientists and outreach staff at the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center and RMRS to develop a Brief on prescribed fire in riparian areas. These scientists are well connected with managers who are addressing this issue.
- 5) We are collaborating with the NPS, USFS Human Factors and Risk Management RD&A, Southern Rockies consortium, and CSU to produce a synthesis on public communication about risk and fire management.

- 6) Collaborations with the Salish Kootenai College and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to develop and host our upcoming Celebrating Traditional Knowledge and Fire workshop have strengthened relationships and understanding of issues surrounding traditional knowledge and fire.
- 7) We collaborated with the Southwest consortium to implement the fire science communication network study, and have been approached by the Northwest consortium to do a similar study in their region. Results of the NR-SW communication network study have been exciting, and the collaboration has strengthened relationships between the two consortia.
- 8) Last but not least, Erin Noonan, of the Wildland Fire Management RD&A, has joined the NRFSN project team. She serves as a liaison to the large fire science application team of the RD&A, including the National Interagency Fuels Technology Transfer Program (NIFTT), and the RD&A's connections throughout the region.