



Traditional Knowledge and Fire Events

Key fire science topics: Firefighter safety and incident management, Social science and human dimensions, Indigenous knowledge, Wildland urban interface and infrastructure, Prescribed fire

Impacts: Connectivity, Conceptual

As part of the FSEN Annual Meeting, which took place near Polson, MT in early June, the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network coordinated a field trip with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). Convening at the CSKT Division of Fire Management building in Ronan, attendees of the meeting learned about wildfire and forest management on the Flathead Reservation. The day began with an introduction from Pend D'Oreille elder, Stephen Small Salmon who warmed up the audience with a few jokes and talked about his memories of fire on the landscape. The



field trip was led by Fire Management Officer for the CSKT, Ron Swaney, who gave a presentation on fire history and management and then led the meeting participants to several locations on the Flathead Reservation to observe and discuss past wildfires and current forest management techniques. In addition to the field trip, the annual meeting was hosted with a focus on tribal engagement.

The Northern Rockies Fire Science Network is also working on another project with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The project, led by Antonio Torres, will be a video about traditional fire featuring clips of elders and other tribal members from several field trips and listening workshops with the CSKT. The project is in its final stages, currently being reviewed by the CSKT cultural committees.

Products: A summary of the FSEN field trip is in the works, and the video project will be available to share soon.

Attendance: The annual JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network meeting had 35 attendees, including representatives from exchanges across the country and two from a sister organization in Canada. Member of the JFSP Governing Board was also present at the meeting.

Logic Model Outcomes addressed: Tribal and non-tribal fire and natural resources managers increase knowledge of fire-related issues of tribal significance (short-term); Tribal and non-tribal managers communicate and collaborate more on cross-jurisdictional fire and fuels management (medium-term); Societal and tribal cultural values are included in fire and fuels management planning (long-term).