

AGENDA

Wilderness Fire Management: Easier Now or Later?

Workshop: July 9, 2019 at the Stage Stop Inn, Choteau, Montana

Field trip: July 10-11, 2019 in Augusta, Montana

Hosted by the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Managers, Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network, and the Joint Fire Science Program



Workshop Objectives

Bring scientists and managers together to share knowledge about topics important to wilderness fire management. These include future challenges related to changing climate and fire seasons; vegetation, soil and water response to fire; resilience; risk management; and engaging with the public.

Workshop Agenda

- 10:00** Welcome, Objectives, Overview (**Bill Avey**, Forest Supervisor, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest; **Vita Wright**, Principal Investigator, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network and USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station)
- 10:10** Introductions (Name, affiliation, why are you here?)
- 10:20** Fire Management in the Bob Marshall: Why I do What I Do (**Mike Munoz**, District Ranger, Rocky Mountain District, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest)
- 10:40** A Scientist's Perspective on Why Wilderness Fire Matters (**Carol Miller**, Research Ecologist, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute)
- 11:00** BREAK
- 11:15** Wilderness Fire Management: Harder Then or Now? Recap of 2016 Workshop Discussions (**Vita Wright**, Principal Investigator, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network and USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station)
- 11:35** Unraveling the Complexity of Mixed Severity Fire Regimes (**Cameron Naficy**, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of British Columbia)

- 11:55** Using Fire to Increase Soil Carbon and Water Holding Capacity (**Deb Page-Dumroese**, Research Soil Scientist, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station)
- 12:15 LUNCH** (On Your Own)
- 1:15** What Can We Expect for Vegetation and Fire Regimes as the Climate Changes? (**Carol Miller**, Research Ecologist, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute)
- 1:35** Post-fire Climate Limits Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir Regeneration (**Kimberley Davis**, Postdoctoral Scientist, W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, University of Montana)
- 1:55** Breakout related to future challenges – think about climate, vegetation, soil, hydrology, fire, resilience – is it easier now or later? How does this change on a landscape with different management strategies?
- 2:25** USFS Perspectives on Wilderness Fire and Long-duration Fire Management (**Frankie Romero**, Fire Use & Fuels Management Program Manager, USFS Washington Office Fire & Aviation Management)
- 2:45** Fire Decision-Making Tools (**Tonja Opperman**, Fire Applications Specialist, USFS Wildland Fire Management RD&A)
- 3:05** BREAK
- 3:20** Wildfire Risk in the Northern Rockies, Northwest, and Southwest Geographic Areas (**Erin Noonan-Wright**, Fire Application Specialist, USFS Wildland Fire Management RD&A)
- 3:40** How Can We Strengthen Wilderness Fire Management? (**Julia Berkey**, Graduate Student, W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, University of Montana)
- 4:00** Barriers to Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Management (**Sarah McCaffrey**, Social Scientist, Rocky Mountain Research Station)
- 4:20** Breakout related to building a fire resilient public and communicating with the public about objectives
- 4:50** Field trip logistics (**Kyle Inabnit**, Fire Management Officer, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest)
- 5:00** BREAK/Social in bar
- 6:00** Dinner (Catered, at the Stage Stop Inn)

See next page for field trip schedule.

Field Trip Schedule

July 10-11, 2019

Field Trip Objectives

Observe landscape mosaic created by fire management in the Bob, including 2nd and 3rd entry fires. Discuss the benefits of this management approach, and the challenges, including evacuating a wilderness inholding during the Sheep Mountain Fire of 2015.

Agenda

July 10

Breakfast on your own

9:00 Meet at the Forest Service Information Station, 405 Manix Street, Augusta. Boat ride provided across the reservoir to the Fish and Game cabin.

12:00 Eat bag lunches at Fish and Game cabin.

1:00 Presentations and discussions at the cabin in the afternoon.

Mike Munoz – Fire on a Large Landscape – Not Simply Theoretical

Josh Carlbom – An Outfitter’s Perspective on Wilderness Fire Management

Rocky Mountain Ranger District Fire Staff – 2015 Sheep Mountain Fire Background

Wildland Fire Module (Type 1) – Modules as a Tool to Support Wilderness Fire Management

Discussion – What do you need to be successful as individuals? What can the agencies and the fire management organization do to better support wilderness fire management?

5:00 Camp at this site, dinner will be provided.

July 11

7:00 Breakfast (provided)

8:00 Hike 2 miles to Sun Butte (900’ elevation gain).

9:30 Presentation with views of Sheep Mountain Fire (2015), Moose Ridge (2015), Red Shale (2013), Ahorn (2007), Hazard Lake (2005), and Biggs Flat (2001)

11:30 Lunch on Sun Butte, weather permitting (bag lunches)

12:00 Hike back to Fish and Game cabin

1:00 **Wrap-Up** Boat shuttle back to Augusta (Complete by 5:00)