



Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service

National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis and Wildland Fire Program,  
The University of Montana

FRAMES and Wildland Fire Program, University of Idaho

**Mission** A University-Forest Service partnership working together to improve the management of wildland fire by integrating science, technology, education, and practical experience.

## Need for Action

Today's fire managers must make complex decisions to balance fire costs and benefits with the need to protect people, property, and other resources. Accumulated fuels, climate change, and diversifying landscapes will lead to more and larger fires in the future, adding further management challenges. Effective education and new approaches are needed to develop new professionals skilled at managing landscapes for long-term ecological and social resilience. The fire management organization needs diverse yet complementary research entities working together to address issues such as restoration of damaged landscapes, the effects of climate change on fire, invasive species, and increased values at risk in the wildland-urban interface.

The Wildland Fire Science Partnership integrates the scientific expertise, technological capability, and on-the-ground experience from the Universities of Montana and Idaho and the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station under a common mission. The WFSP utilizes each partner's unique strengths in a combined effort to produce more effective and far-reaching research and to develop and deliver new tools and knowledge.

## Benefits of WFSP

**Establishes** a diverse university-agency team to work on relevant fire management issues.

**Creates and delivers** science and technology consistent with national priorities.

**Integrates** multiple programs of work to give fire managers new approaches and advanced tools to make effective decisions before, during, and after a fire.

**Facilitates** individual and collective work with many stakeholders (the public, state and federal agencies, and private and non-governmental organizations) at various scales of complexity.

**Produces** exceptionally skilled future fire managers.

## Partnership Goals

**Increase core fire and fuel science and measurement capabilities** to improve resource management and fire planning.

**Produce timely, reliable, and consistent fire and fuel information** for scientists, resource managers, policymakers, and the public.

**Increase access to critical data and applications** to support documentation, implementation, and review of decisions and accomplishments.

**Develop the skills and capabilities** of future fire managers by providing experiential education, research opportunities, access to relevant science data and applications, and training.



## Current Projects

**Increased capability.** Partners are improving measurement and monitoring protocols used to assess and predict fire behavior and effects on active fires.

**Improved information.** Partners are utilizing innovative science and technology so land managers can better map fuel loading, produce forest biomass estimates, and improve smoke management.

**Better access.** Partners are improving users' access to detailed scientific information on the effects of fire on plants, animals, and streams.

**Education to build capacity.** Partners are helping the next generation of fire professionals complete advanced coursework and gain fireline leadership experience.

## Upcoming Projects

**Establish a regional science delivery team** to support effective natural resource decisionmaking and to communicate needed science.

**Develop scientifically robust techniques** to help managers quantify and monitor restoration and accomplishments in fire and fuels management.

**Compile and test a standardized suite of field and remote sensing measurements** that can inform and validate fire models linking fuels, fire behavior, and effects.

**Expand online access** to current wildland fire science, data, and applications.

## Wildland Fire Science Partnership Contacts

**USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station** Fire, Fuel and Smoke Science Program • [firelab.fire.org](http://firelab.fire.org);  
Wildland Fire Management RD&A • [www.wfmrda.org](http://www.wfmrda.org)

**The University of Montana** National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis • [firecenter.umont.edu](http://firecenter.umont.edu)

**University of Idaho** FRAMES • [frames.nbii.gov](http://frames.nbii.gov); Wildland Fire Program • [www.cnr.uidaho.edu/wildland-fire](http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/wildland-fire)

**Partnership Coordinator** Kris Lee • [kristinelee@fs.fed.us](mailto:kristinelee@fs.fed.us)