

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Wildfire decisions and air quality: 4 hour online course

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Education/Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Idaho
Effective Dates: 7/1/2012 - 12/31/2015
Funding Amount: \$109,855 [FY13: \$50,000; FY12: \$59,855]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Sheila Williams, National Park Service, National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S Development Ave, Boise, ID 83705; 208-387-5203, Sheila_Williams@nps.gov

Investigator: Alistair M.S. Smith; University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Moscow, Idaho, 83844-1133; (208) 885-1009; Alistair@uidaho.edu

Project Abstract: With the issuance of the 2009 Implementation Guidance to the Federal Wildland Fire Policy, it is clear that increased collaboration and communication is needed in order to maintain the social acceptability of using wildfire as a land management tool. A key challenge for inter-agency collaboration and communication revolves around how air quality is considered and planned for in our wildfire decisions. This is especially true for long duration incidents where meeting some resource objectives is possible. There is a myriad of smoke issues surrounding wildfires with key topics of transportation safety, personnel exposure and public health and safety which face both agency administrators as well as incident personnel from firefighter level to Incident Command and General Staff. In order to provide an introduction for personnel who will be faced with this challenge, this 4-hour online training course would be a first step to addressing the issues and knowledge needed to support wildfire management goals.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: December 31, 2015

Keywords: University of Idaho, National Park Service, National Interagency Fire Center, National Wildfire Coordinating Group's (NWCG) Smoke Committee, wildfire, smoke and air quality, online training