



# Alaska Fire Science Consortium 2012 Annual Report

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*Sarah Trainor, Project PI; Jennifer Northway, Consortium Coordinator*

## **1. Describe how things went during the year. Are you on track?**

Overall, AFSC has made good progress this year in solidifying our stakeholder base and establishing our reputation and presence in the region. As outlined in section #3, smaller workshops and field experiences with targeted fire management committees and interest groups have provided concrete, useful information and training for our constituents. We see it as a sign of progress that our Advisory Board has requested an annual in-person meeting, in addition to monthly teleconference meetings, in order to further explore ways in which AFSC can partner with represented organizations and meet regional needs. We have seen continued growth in our mailing list, twitter followers, and website visits. Our connections and “reach” have notably expanded as we receive more requests for event assistance, letters of support, and research resources. Yes, we believe we are on track in establishing regional recognition and a positive reputation.

## **2. Issues or concerns which the program office should know about:**

Jennifer Northway has been doing an outstanding job as AFSC Coordinator since August 2010 under Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA) with the BLM Alaska Fire Service (AFS). While we were hopeful at one point that a new position dedicated to AFSC Coordinator might be possible at AFS, due to budget cuts and tight personnel conditions, AFS could neither extend this IPA nor set up an alternate position to serve as Consortium Coordinator. As such, Jen will be leaving AFSC effective Dec. 31, 2012. We expect that she will remain engaged in AFSC in her new post as fire ecologist with NPS. However, the possibility of working something out with AFS caused delays in posting the new position and other unforeseeable University delays have further postponed the hiring process. The job is now posted and we are hopeful that a new coordinator can be recruited and on-board to be trained prior to Jen’s departure. However, we must also be prepared for a minimal or non-existent transition period for training and transfer of institutional knowledge prior to Jen’s departure. This will set us back in terms of progress in stakeholder interactions, production of tools and resources and other program goals.

In addition, the science writer and layout expert that we hired in the summer 2012 resigned to take a job out of state after 2 months. We have hired Randi Jandt on a part-time, short-term basis and are in the process of looking to replace the science writing position. Our writing and print outreach capacity has been set back.

Furthermore, there is a small, active group of researcher and agency personnel in Alaska. This is an advantage in building and maintaining relationships and partnerships. However, it is also an obstacle in that we have a limited group of individuals to engage in our Advisory Board, Consortium activities and partnerships. These same individuals also often serve on multiple AWFCG Committees and on other regional fire related groups. We are finding that it is difficult to engage members of the fire community without exhausting and over-tapping both individual and agency resources.

### **3. Briefly describe efforts of collaboration and coordination with other partnerships:**

We have continued to expand and develop our partnership network over the past year. Our primary efforts of collaboration and coordination include the following organizations and activities:

#### **AWFCG Fire Research Development and Applications Committee (FRDAC):**

The AFSC works with the FRDAC to establish Alaska fire research needs and communicate them to the Joint Fire Science Program Board and other stakeholders. We co-produced a one-page handout summarizing the research needs list, created a web version of the list ([www.frames.gov/afsc/researchneeds](http://www.frames.gov/afsc/researchneeds)), and have begun work with FRDAC in identifying related research papers and projects that address or support an aspect of the established needs. We have developed a FRDAC webpage providing contact information, products and activities, and access to the research needs list ([www.frames.gov/afsc/frdac](http://www.frames.gov/afsc/frdac)). We worked together to update and create Live Fuel Moisture Field Sampling Guides. In addition, we are working closely with FRDAC to help connect researchers and potential students to the research needs list and encourage manager-scientist interactions in the early stages of research project development.

#### **AWFCG Fire Modeling and Analysis Committee (FMAC):**

The AFSC has worked closely with this newly formed AWFCG (Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group) committee to co-host two workshops/trainings: 1) the Alaska Fire Modeling Workshop (March 5-7, 2012); and 2) the Alaska Fuel Moisture Sampling Field Workshop (May 17, 2012). We also worked with FMAC, USFWS, and LANDFIRE to provide webinar access and other support for the Alaska LANDFIRE Calibration Workshop (November 7-10, 2011). The FMAC provided support and coordination in securing Canadian presenters for our 2011 Annual Alaska Fire Science Workshop. AFSC reviewed, distributed, and electronically hosts the "FSPro in Alaska: A Users Guide" document created by a FMAC member. The AFSC is also collaborating with the FMAC in evaluating the "Experimental Seasonal Forecast of Area Burned" tool and its utility.

#### **Fire Behavior and Modeling Discussion Group:**

This informal discussion group is open for those interested in learning more about fire behavior modeling and applications in Alaska. The AFSC helps to coordinate the winter discussion/training series, develop topics, provide a webpage ([www.frames.gov/Alaska/fire\\_modeling\\_group](http://www.frames.gov/Alaska/fire_modeling_group)) to post activities, recorded webinars, instruction guides, and reports, and distribute pertinent announcements and educational opportunities.

#### **Society of American Foresters – Alaska Chapter:**

The AFSC was one of the co-sponsors for the Society of American Foresters (Alaska Chapter) Conference: Managing Alaskan Forests, Supporting Alaskan Forests (April 26-27, 2012). We organized a "Forest Management and Disturbance" session during the conference, distributed announcements, and provided fire science related materials.

#### **Northwestern Interior Forest Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NWIF LCC):**

As the NWIF LCC is formalizing their organization, we are in communication with the Science Coordinator and Partnership Specialist and are coordinating efforts to consolidate land/resource management information needs from the fire community. Representatives from the NWIF LCC have presented information at our 2011 Annual Alaska Fire Science Workshop. We plan to cross-link future activities (e.g., our webinar series) and

collaborate, at some level, with the NWIF LCC on their Spring Science Workshop (Spring 2013), designed to identify research questions, identify common data needs, and facilitate scientist-manager communication.

**Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research Station (BNZ LTER):**

The AFSC has worked directly with research scientists in the BNZ LTER program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to provide a mechanism for sharing current projects and fire research results. Our participation with this program has served as a key element of the BNZ LTER outreach plan and a direct connection to the management community. Multiple BNZ LTER scientists attended our 2011 Alaska Fire Science Workshop (October 6-7, 2011), both as participants and presenters, and we are collaborators on the humanities project “In a Time of Change: The Art of Fire.”

**Fairbanks Arts Association:**

The Fairbanks Arts Association and artist/curator Karin Franzen were instrumental collaborators on the “In a Time of Change: The Art of Fire” project ([www.frames.gov/afsc/artoffire](http://www.frames.gov/afsc/artoffire)) which debuted at the Fairbanks Arts Association, Bear Gallery in August of 2012. “The Art of Fire” activities are included in Table 2.

**Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP), NOAA RISA Program; Alaska Climate Science Center (CSC), DOI; and Scenarios Network for Alaska and Arctic Planning (SNAP), UAF:**

The AFSC is co-located with ACCAP, SNAP and the Alaska DOI CSC. We benefit administratively through utilization of office space, administrative services and various office supplies. We also benefit by having direct access to up-to-date climate science including current tundra fire research.

**Table 1.** Unique Participation by Organization Who Receive Your Information or Participate in Your Events

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Total Number of Unique Participants</b>
Tribal Organizations	8
State	59
Counties/Boroughs/Parishes	4
Cities and Local Communities	5
Regional Authorities	0
Private Landowner	6
Private Associations	0
Companies	5
Consultants	2
Foreign Organizations & Individuals	22
University and College Faculty or Researchers	38
University and College Students	8
Prescribed Fire Councils	0
Fire Learning Network and The Nature Conservancy	2
NGO (not listed above)	2
Bureau of Indian Affairs	2
Bureau of Land Management	80
Fish and Wildlife Service	28
Forest Service	16
Forest Service Research	22
Geological Survey	6
National Park Service	19
Natural Resources Conservation Service	0
US Bureau of Reclamation	0
NOAA and National Weather Service	5
ARS	0
NASA	0
Department of Defense	4
United States Fire Administration	0

**Table 2.** Types of activity, number of activities and total number of participants by activity.

<b>Activity (Conducted, Hosted, Facilitated or Sponsored)</b>	<b>How many of these activities did you offer during the year?</b>	<b>What was the total number of participants?</b>
Field Trip, Tour, Demonstration or Roadshow	3	746
Field Consultations and Expert Cadres	2	6
Training Sessions	1	17
Workshops	3	180
Conferences and Symposia	1	67
Poster Presentations	1	740
Short Courses, Continuing Education Units	0	0
Academic Credit Courses	0	0
Talks and Personal Briefings About Consortium	20	7214
Newsletters	8	2788
Fact Sheets and Handouts	5	0
Webinars	2	87
Tweets	290	0
Facebook Postings	34	0
Other Social Media	0	0
Blog Posts	25	2083
Requests for Information, Assistance, or Referrals	28	117
Bibliography or Annotated Bibliography	4	1370
Guidelines or Guidebooks	2	30
Syntheses	0	0
Encyclopedia	0	0
Database	1	0