



Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Symposium

Western Fire: Blur the Boundaries – Advancing Collaborative Science, Management, and Policy

Date: January 5, 2021

Time: 8:45 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm MST

Symposium Moderator: Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Format: Plenary session followed by three panel presentations. Panelists will present for 10 minutes followed by a moderated Q & A period.

Agenda

8:45 am-9:30 am

Symposium Plenary: *Key leaders from the states most impacted by recent fires will set the stage for the importance of the symposium and expected outcomes.*

Panelists:

Wade Crowfoot, M.Sc. – Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

Jason Miner, J. D. –Natural Resources Policy Director, Office of Oregon Governor Kate Brown

Mike Lester, M.F., M.B.A. – State Forester, Colorado State University

9:30 am-10:45 am

Panel 1 - Fire Impact on Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems: *The current state of the science as well as possible research priorities will be discussed.*

Moderator: Kevin Schaffer, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Panelists:

Gavin Jones - Ph.D., Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Wildlife & Terrestrial Ecosystems Program, U.S. Forest Service,

Jason Dunham - Ph.D., Forest & Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey;

Lori Daniels - Ph. D., Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of British Columbia

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Panel 2 - Human Relationships with Fire: *This panel will explore communicating with people/communities about ecological aspects of fire with recognition of the human dimensions of fire to advance public understanding and consensus for action (pre-during-post fire).*

Moderator: Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Panelists:

Paul Hessburg - Ph.D., Research Landscape Ecologist, USDA-FS, PNW Research Station, UW, & OSU

Max Moritz - Ph. D., Cooperative Extension Specialist in Fire, University of California Santa Barbara

Representative from the BLM/Intermountain West Joint Venture Partnership

Noon – 1 pm Lunch Break

1:00 pm-2:15 pm

Panel 3 – Coordinated Decision Making for Fire Response: *Panelists will discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current framework used to address coordinated responses between states and provinces to fire and fire impacts on fish and wildlife resources.*

Moderator: Jen Psyllakis, Director, British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations, British Columbia, Wildlife & Habitat

Panelists:

Brad Little – Governor, State of Idaho

George Geissler, M.B.A.- State Forester, Washington Department of Natural Resources

Paul Henson - Ph. D., Oregon Fish & Wildlife Office, US Fish & Wildlife Service

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

Wrap Up: Tying It All Together

Moderator: Tony Wasley

Join us for a discussion about what WAFWA can do to shape the future of fire management in the west. The discussion will make connections from the earlier panels to the WAFWA Strategic Plan and current WAFWA initiatives while considering opportunities to make recommendations for the future.