



October 31, 2016

Priorities and Initiatives

Priorities for SRFSN this last fiscal year included:

- 1) Continuing to develop online tools and social media to increase both delivery and exchange of regional issues, as well as success stories and solutions (website, videos, Twitter, and Facebook);
- 2) Increased face-to-face /field experiences for managers, researchers and communities in underserved and rural areas of our region, and
- 3) Increased relationships with key partners: WiRe (Wildfire Research team at RMRS), West Region Wildfire Council, the Tamarisk Coalition, the CSFS CoWood Program, the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change project, the Coalition for the Poudre River, University of Wyoming Extension, Western State Colorado University, and the Western Forestry Extension Agents. Outcomes included co-sponsoring events and online products that increased knowledge of translational fire science, success stories, and management options.

Highlights

Table 1: SRFSN Activity Highlights: (Major or unique events supporting fire science exchange)

Activity	Audience	Communication Phase
Person to Person:		
Wood Utilization in the Wildland-Urban Interface, CO	Federal, State, and consulting foresters and land managers, NGO's, contractors & loggers	Conviction
West Fork Fire: Bridging the Divide Workshop & Field Trip, CO	Managers, municipalities, agencies, public	Comprehension/Conviction
Fuels Treatments & Ecological Values Canyon City, CO	Land Management agencies, private landowners, NGO's	Comprehension/Conviction
Hell's Hollow Rx Fire Field Trip, UT	Federal, State, and consulting foresters and land managers, NGO's, contractors & loggers	Comprehension/Conviction
Western Regional Forestry Extension Meeting, UT	Agency representatives, university researchers	Awareness
BrewShed Tour Field Trip & Workshop, CO	Managers, municipalities, agencies, public	Comprehension/ Conviction
Wildfire Science Seminar (Series of 5), CSU, CO	Managers, researchers, students	Comprehension/Conviction
Ponderosa Pine Symposium SW, CO	Federal, State, and consulting foresters and land managers, NGO's, contractors & loggers	Comprehension/Conviction
Capturing Fire: Photo Essay & Discussion, USFS Wildfire photographer Kari Greer	Land Management agencies, private landowners, NGO's	Awareness/Comprehension
Media & Online Resources:		
SRFSN HotSpot Series:	All SRFSN users	Awareness
Website	All SRFSN users	Awareness
Facebook	All SRFSN users	Awareness
Twitter	All SRFSN users	Awareness
YouTube (5 presentations, 5 HotSpots)	All SRFSN users	Awareness/Comprehension
Webinars (5)	All SRFSN users	Comprehension/Conviction
Video Shorts: West Fork Fire, Chadron Forestry Day, (in progress)	Managers, all SRFSN users	Introduction/Learning
Gambel Oak/Mountain Shrub Knowledge Assessment White paper (in print)	Land managers, researchers, The Nature Conservancy, fire-adapted communities	Understanding/Learning

- Logic Model Outcome:** SRFSN has worked to organize and evolve relationships with our sub-award partners:

Increase collaboration/communication across land managers and fire scientists

Foster long-term, productive, and nimble relationships with partners and organizations

Forestry Extension at Utah State University, Extension at University of Wyoming, and the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council. These new relationships are already helping to expand collaboration and translational science into new areas in Utah, Wyoming, and bringing logistical and science support to the Colorado Prescribed Fire Council. SRFSN is also moving forward with a working relationship with Dr. Derek Scasta and graduate student Bryn Mahar of U. Wyoming to assist with video development, outreach to Wyoming and the SRFSN technical team, a fire effects and ecology class, and the Society for Range Management.
- Logic Model Outcome:** SRFSN continues its role as a major planner and contributor to the Colorado Wildland Fire Conference (CWFC), providing logistical, informational, and financial support. Although titled as a Colorado conference, the conference has regional impact for all neighboring states. The CWFC (and SRFSN) continues to grow through expanded relationships with the West Regional Wildfire Council, the BLM, and the new Fire Adapted Communities Colorado. CWFC has been awarded a new grant from the BLM for conference development, helping to leverage SRFSN contributions to this program. SRFSN was one of the main financial contributors helping the conference to become re-established, which is now gaining enough interest to warrant investment by other sources ultimately helping SRFSN extend program dollars for outreach and activities in other areas. The CWFC is an excellent example of an exchange event that has become established with SRFSN assistance and valued by other funders as an important regional exchange event.

Increase Awareness/knowledge of fire, fuel and vegetation management issues & options

Fire management policy and land management decisions are driven by regional fire science

Increased funding and sustainability for SRFSN
- Logic Model Outcome:** The “Chadron Forestry Day: Growing Fire Tolerant Forests” video series is almost complete: two of the videos are ready for posting, and two more are in final edits. The Nebraska Forest Service has requested that SRFSN release the video series all at the same time. We anticipate completing this series before December 2016.
- Logic Model Outcome:** SRFSN continued to expand support in southern Colorado: co-sponsoring the third in a series of post-fire workshops and field trips on the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests, bringing scientists, managers, and the public together to discuss post-fire management solutions in a changing climate. This helped SRFSN establish further knowledge exchange with the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change project in the region. A video about this and other workshops is in development.

Increase in requests for Exchange assistance and expertise

Increase in science-based strategies to address regional fire issues
- Logic Model Outcome:** SRFSN also successfully co-sponsored additional workshops, symposia, and field trips in Southwest Colorado, west-central Colorado, and Utah: Capturing Fire with Kari Greer, Ponderosa Pine Symposium, Hell’s Hollow Rx Fire Tour, the USU Forestry Extension Timber Tour, and the Utah/BLM Rx Fire Workshop. These activities are being supported by members of the SRFSN Leadership Team as well as SRFSN partners and are growing the SRFSN network effectively beyond the main office in Fort Collins.

Increase communication/collaboration across fire science professionals and agencies

- **Logic Model Outcome:** As can be seen in the chart below, increased organization and postings to our online learning components are reaching wide audiences. In particular, one of SRFSN’s HotSpots: “Exploring Real-Time Incident Management Technologies for Wildland Firefighting” was shared by a national newsletter, reaching almost 900 views.

Increase understanding of regional differences, fire information needs, success stories in land management, regional JFSP funded research projects, prescribed fire, oak/shrub issues, and fuels treatments

Increased safety for public, line officers, and wildland fire fighters

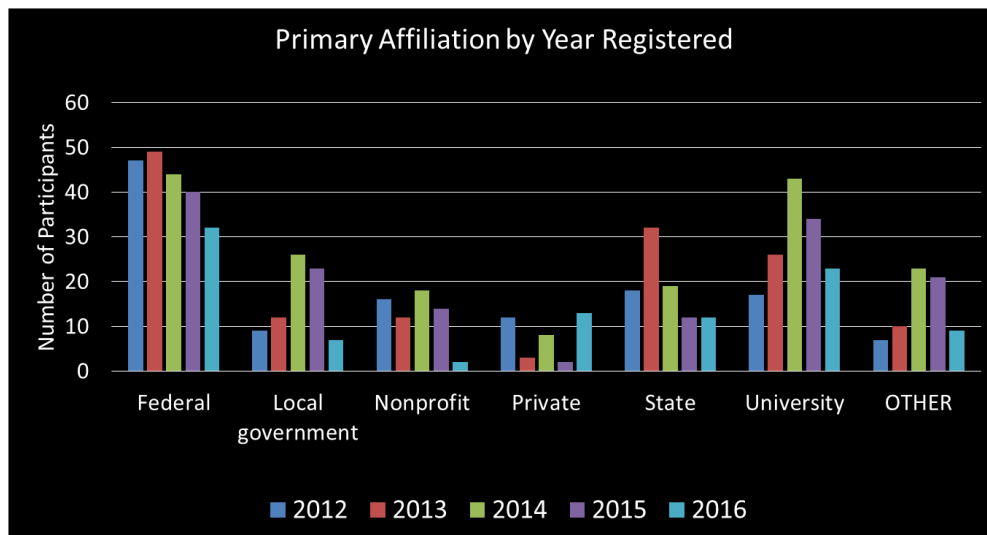
Participation and Growth

SRFSN continues to grow in interest and participation. This fiscal year to date we have 755 followers/participants on our main delivery list, and have generated over 38 newsletters and announcements disseminating the latest regional issues, research, events, webinars, news, and resources. Open rate for newsletters on our listserv ranges from 20% to 40%.

Participation continues to be predominantly from Colorado, universities and federal agencies, with some growth in municipalities and non-governmental/non-profit organizations. The largest gains are seen in areas both within the Front Range and in outer regions: northern Utah, southern Wyoming, southern Colorado, and the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska.

Figure 1 shows growth of SRFSN since inception in 2012 (data as of July 2016). Years of largest growth are 2013 and 2014.

Figure 1: Primary affiliation by year registered



Regional Trends

Wildfire behavior and home ignition: SRFSN continues to prioritize activities and information that behavior continues to grow throughout the region. The theme of the upcoming Colorado Wildland Fire Conference is “Awareness to Action, Messaging to Mitigation, and Words to Work” – where we will identify those presenters that can offer the latest in science and guidance on wildfire behavior and management options in the WUI.

Sagebrush Ecology and Fire: SRFSN is continuing to identify resources and activities in our region that can help build science and knowledge exchange for sagebrush habitats and fire management. Participation in the Great Basin Consortia, continuing work with scientists in the Gunnison area, and outreach with Utah State University and University of Wyoming will help to identify future steps.

Verbal/audio interactions continue to grow as more efficient ways to deliver science and information. We currently have five videos in production, as well as two HotSpots. We have also used video recording to capture success stories and messages from managers and community members at the BrewShed Tour and the Bridging the Divide event.

Challenges

Budgetary Challenges: By far the greatest challenge of this fiscal year were the delays in contract agreement between CSU and BLM, which postponed SRFSN award funds for four months. However, this actually helped to highlight the value of SRFSN to our partners: the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship at CSU, Warner College of Natural Resources, the Mountain Studies Institute, FireWise of Southwest Colorado, Utah State University, and the University of Nebraska worked together to cover activity expenses and coordinator salary until differences could be resolved.

Capacity: Having enough consistent “person-power” has been a challenge for our network to cover organization and production of all activities and products. However, with two student workers who will be with SRFSN another 8 months, as well as specified activities and personnel at both USU and UWY will help greatly in expanding outreach in these areas as well as developing contact and resources with our Technical Advisory Team. We anticipate building more feedback and projects with these Team members, as well as building more relationships with tribal outreach, and outreach in general throughout the region.

Website and Social media: With current grant cycle funds available, we will be moving forward with Squarespace coding to improve the appearance and resources within the SRFSN website, as well as development of a social media strategy. Another challenge is the development of video products. These are well-received and used by the SRFSN audience; our YouTube channel came into development a year ago and has already had over 2,333 views. Video shorts continue to grow as a means of knowledge transfer. However, the development of a good-quality wildfire information video is time-consuming and takes substantial planning and oversight. SRFSN is now working with a variety of videographers to make these productions smoother and quicker.

Scientists and managers are increasingly seeking out the SRFSN as a method of delivering new science, as a source for expert cadres and speakers, and for support relating to wildfire knowledge exchange and education events.

Online Learning

Figure 2 shows both unique and total opens for our e-news, showing growth and reach of wildfire exchange beyond our direct mailing list. The spike in opens in December is the Waldo Fire report from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

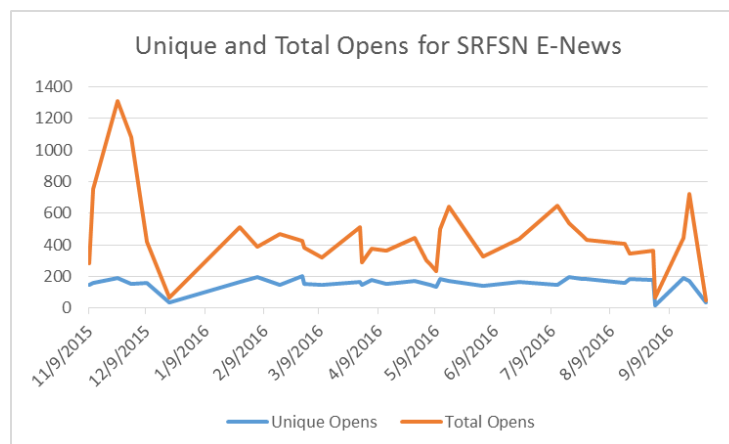


Table 2 lists all SRFSN online learning activities and outputs since November 1st 2015. Strategic organization for both the new Squarespace website and social media as a whole will continue to improve as SRFSN has brought on a new student employee this month who is competent with social media, and is working to improve Facebook exposure as well as YouTube and website content. Now that SRFSN funds are in place we are resuming work with our Squarespace coding consultant, helping to refine appearance, and navigability throughout website resources, and close the gaps between other online resources and the website

Table 2: SRFSN Online Learning Activity, Nov 1, 2015 – October 31, 2016.

Method	Project	Status	Subscribers/Views/Posts
Website	Overall website development, posting highlights, activities, resources/publications, and funding	Continued development. New coding contractor is hired as well as student social media manager to strategize social media	Visits: 1,843 Page views: 5051 Audience size: 1,453
E-news	Newsletters & announcements	When SRFSN is adequately staffed, we usually produce a newsletter 1 to 2 times a month, plus announcements about events/info of regional importance	Subscribers: 924 Total e-mails delivered past year: 22,252 Opened: 5,557 (25%) Clicked: 2,3009 (42% of opened) (See Figure X for more info)
Webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado State Forest Service: Adapt to the Gaps • LANDFIRE BpS IN Southern Rockies • Leveraging LANDFIRE for Management (at USU) • Climate Variability and Fire Effects in Aspen (at USU) • Fires, Beetles, and Droughts (at USU) • Climate, Wildfire, & Erosion (at USU) • Cross-laminated Timber (at USU) • FEIS - Finding Best Available Science (co-sponsored with SWFSC) 	Completed/posted	Total attendance: 325
Videos/YouTube	<p><u>Posted SRFSN Videos:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfires and Cheatgrass in Western Great Plains • NIST Study: Waldo Canyon • Colorado Wildland Fire Conference Interviews <p><u>Posted SRFSN HotSpots:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring real-time Incident Management Technologies • Characteristics of CO Forestry Contractors 	<p><u>In Progress:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 more videos of the Growing Fire Tolerant Forests in Nebraska (very close to completion) • RMRS "Sense and Storytelling" video • Fuels Treatments and Ecological Values • Brewshed Tour Interviews • Bridging the Divide: Forests into the Future • CO/WY SAF Terri Jain presentation 	Total channel views (past year): 2,333

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Fork Fire Fisheries Study • Social Media & Wildfire 		
Twitter	Ongoing: posting SRFSN online learning, special events, & latest news	Subscribership has grown by over 200 in the last year	Tweets: 2,492 (cumulative since May 2013) Followers: 808 Following: 306
Facebook	Ongoing: posting SRFSN online learning, special events, & latest news, allows for more extensive postings & discussions	Have worked since spring 2016 to expand our Facebook page, is gradually increasing.	Postings: 150 Likes: 42

Selected Upcoming Events and Projects:

In Person:

- High Park Fire: Post-Fire Science Exchange Symposium (SRFSN role – logistical support and expert cadres)
- Southwest Fire Ecology Conference: Table and Presentation
- Society for Range Management: SRFSN-sponsored session with speakers, table
- Tamarisk Coalition Conference: logistical support
- Pyrolysis demo at Ag Day. Rifle, CO: logistical support
- High-Altitude Restoration and Central Rockies Society for Ecological Restoration: Poster
- Colorado Wildland Fire Conference: Planning, Logistics, financial support
- Ferris Mountain Prescribed and Wildfire Effects: SRFSN financial and logistical support
- U. WY fire ecology class

Online:

Seven videos in progress:

- SRFSN “infomercial”
- Post-Fire Pine seedling recruitment
- Chadron video series
- Bridging the Divide: West Fork Fire
- Fuel Treatment and Ecological Considerations (P/J and Avian species)
- Wood Utilization in the WUI
- Terry Jain Presentation at CSFS
- Webinars for regional JFSP research projects

Printed Products:

Gambel oak: The Status of Our Knowledge (1,000 copies)

Guidelines for Chipping and Mastication in the Front Range of Colorado