Adapting to More Wildfire

Seeking to explain where, when, why, and how increasing wildfire risk causes people and organizations to change.



The social and environmental costs of wildfires have grown dramatically in recent decades. Better knowledge of how communities can reorganize themselves in the face of this growing risk is imperative.

Purpose

This project explores how individuals, communities, groups, and organizations in fire-prone regions change and reorganize relationships to become better able to cope with increasingly large and intense wildfires. The project team will:

- Explore wildfire adaptation experiences in four fire-prone western US study areas.
- Convene a stakeholder council with leading national and state wildfire networks to derive key lessons.
- Test the most promising lessons in the Deschutes area near Bend, Oregon using a first-of-its-kind computer model to simulate different adaptation strategies.
- Disseminate insights about how organizations can increase adaptive capacity while being responsive to local conditions and cultures.

Through collaborative engagement with students, educators, stakeholders, policymakers and resource managers, lessons and outcomes will be shared and made accessible to create communities and landscapes that are resilient in the face of increasing wildfires.

Contact Information

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Core Objectives

Research

Our work is organized to fulfill two core objectives:

Objective 1: Investigate how intensifying environmental changes have affected wildfire management networks, and what factors appear to increase or inhibit their capacity to reduce risk.

Objective 2: Use Envision computer simulation modeling to investigate how improved processes and guided reorganization of individuals, communities, groups, and organizational relationships can enhance adaptive capacity to wildfire.

Broader Impacts

Our broader impacts plan expands our research through three core objectives:

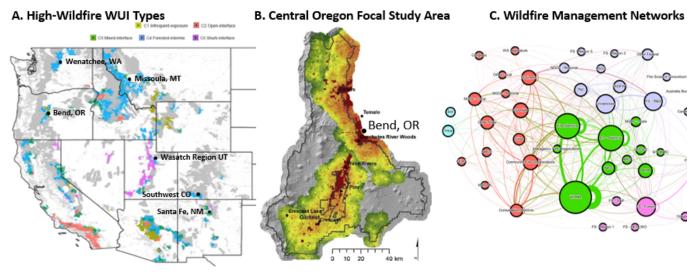
Objective 1: Work collaboratively throughout the project with decision makers, resource managers, communities, and other stakeholders engaged in managing wildfire risk.

Objective 2: Provide experiential, research-based educational, outreach and engagement experiences for minority and underrepresented undergraduate students to help broaden the diversity of future scholars engaged in research.

Objective 3: Provide public access to project-related data and information.

Focus Area

Through four study areas - located in Central Oregon, North Central Washington; and, two others to be determined - our research draws on a diversity of collaborative governance approaches to reducing wildfire risk in the Intermountain West.



Areas of high-wildfire WUI by type. Forested intermix (blue); Shrub interface (pink); Mixed-landscape interface (green).

Central Oregon study area within Deschutes National Forest showing risk to local WUI communities.

Connections within and between different groups of agencies, organizations, and communities in North Central Washington study area.

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University partners include: UNIVERSITY OF **OREGON** Portland State Oregon State University FIORIDA