



## Southern Fire Exchange Hosts Field Workshops to Share Recent Developments in Fire Science

**The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wildfire response.

Activity	Impact
# participants in 2011 workshop demonstrating wildfire risk reduction	40
# field workshops offered in Fall 2013	5
# participants in 2013 workshops	160

The Southern Fire Exchange (SFE) represents eleven southern states with the goals of delivering fire science and outreach, as well as serving as a conduit for fire managers to share new research needs with the research community. In order to better connect land managers and scientists, the Southern Fire Exchange has utilized field workshops to provide a venue for the exchange of questions, research applications, and ideas related to wildland fires and ecosystem management.

By piggybacking on the state Prescribed Fire Council meetings, SFE has overcome challenges related to travel restrictions faced by participants of the field workshops. To date they have offered six field workshops on broad topics ranging from fuel treatments to ecological restoration to wetland management. Prescribed fire has been a common theme in all workshops. Five field workshops in the fall of 2013 had over 160 participants and involved collaborations between SFE, Conserved Forest Ecosystems Outreach and Research Cooperative, the Nature Conservancy, the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, and Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation

Partnership in Georgia, the St. Johns River Water Management District in Florida, and three Prescribed Fire Councils. The field workshops were designed to facilitate experiential fire science learning for managers, researchers, consultants, students, and private landowners. More information on the tours can be found in the September-October 2013 Newsletter and the January-February 2014 Newsletter.

Another very successful workshop occurred in 2011 with the participation of the following partners: Southern Fire Exchange, U.S. Forest Service, and University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation and Conserved Forest Ecosystems Outreach and Research Cooperative. This field workshop included a tour and discussion of research conducted at the Osceola National Forest to quantify the wildfire risk reduction effectiveness and consequences to soil and vegetation of mechanically shredding, burning, or shredding and burning understory shrubs and small trees in pine flatwoods. Approximately 40 fire managers and scientists met indoors for an in-depth discussion about the research, which was followed by an outdoor field trip to

Success stories highlight regional wildland fire accomplishments that support implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy in the Southeast. The stories demonstrate how the Southeast is improving its "fire resiliency" through technology, education and outreach, forest management, collaboration, and more. Success stories also serve as a model for other communities to follow.

observe the research site and results. An important long term outcome from the research that was demonstrated in the workshop is the newly released *Photo Series Guide for Fuel Treatments in Pine Flatwoods*. The Guide will be an important resource for future field workshops with fire managers throughout the Coastal Plain. This initiative has furthered our region's work of restoring resilient landscapes by improving our knowledge of ecosystem management by sharing cutting edge fire research and opening up a dialogue between land managers and scientists.



*Southern Fire Exchange field workshop participants. Credit: Dawn McKinstry*

**Additional Information:**

Southern Fire Exchange: <http://www.southernfireexchange.org>

**Contact:** Alan Long, Administrative Director, Southern Fire Exchange, [ajl2@ufl.edu](mailto:ajl2@ufl.edu)

**Partners:** Southern Fire Exchange and many regional partners



Southern Regional  
Extension Forestry

