

# CAFMS Newsletter



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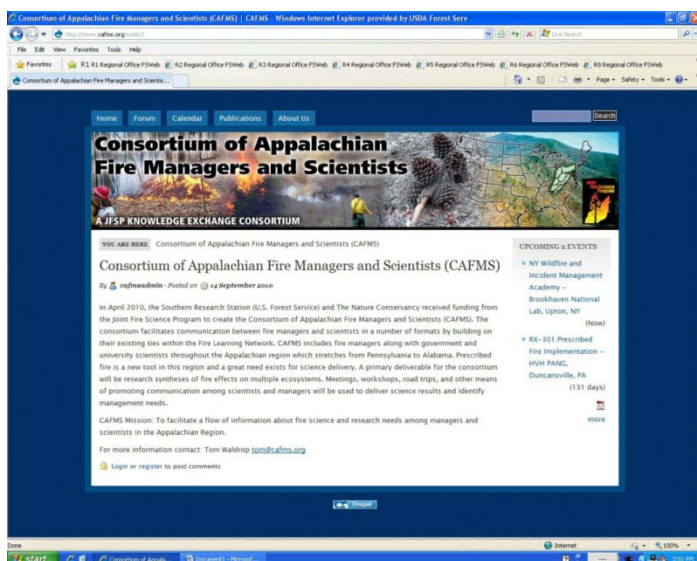
## What is CAFMS?

We are proud to provide the first newsletter from the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists. The Consortium is for all land managers and researchers in the region who deal with any aspect of fire. Our mission is to facilitate the flow of information about fire science and research needs among managers and scientists in the Appalachian Region.

Communication between managers and researchers can be difficult. CAFMS addresses fire science in the Mountain and Piedmont regions from Alabama to Pennsylvania. Fire managers there have a difficult job because prescribed burning is relatively new to the region. Fire science developed for the Coastal Plain often does not apply because of steep slopes and different species. Communication through CAFMS will help managers receive important information and help researchers to identify research questions that are important to managers.

## What are we doing?

In the fall of 2009 we held 3 meetings across the region. The purpose of those meetings was to get feedback from managers and scientists on what you would like a consortium to accomplish if we had one. We compiled that information and submitted a proposal to the Joint Fire Science Program. We found out in late April that we had received funding for CAFMS. All of that was very exciting and daunting at the same time. We know that the work ahead of us is tremendous. Over the last few months we have been busy getting the word out about CAFMS. The biggest wish was for a web site with one-stop shopping as you can see below we have started that. We have been involved with the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network. An invitation to speak at the Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council meeting came in late summer. We were able to visit KY in September and spread the word about CAFMS. Be on the lookout for our poster at meetings. It was at the Burn Boss Workshop in Destin FL in December and will be traveling around in 2011!



## Web Site

Check out our web site at [CAFMS.org](http://CAFMS.org). It includes a list of the top 30 research publications from the region and a discussion forum among other resources. We are steadily building the web site so check back often. You can also find us on Facebook by searching CAFMS.

## What we have planned:

### Web site with one-stop shopping

- List of fire publications with links to online copies
- Summaries of management burns in a database with standardized protocols
- CAFMS quarterly newsletter with upcoming activities and stories of success
- Fact sheets that give a brief synopsis of research studies
- List serve for management questions and input to research needs

### Meetings

- Informal meetings and workshops with long breaks and small groups, field trips, monitoring demonstration and research sites and socials in a relaxed atmosphere
- Involvement in FLN meetings, agency fire management meetings, and state Prescribed Fire Councils
- Special use meetings and workshops organized by CAFMS

### Research synthesis

- Impacts of fire on flora in the Appalachian region
- Impacts of fire on fauna in the Appalachian region
- Impacts of fire on atmospheric quality in the Appalachian region
- Impacts of fire on soil and water in the Appalachian region

## What we need from you:

**Now is your time to speak.** Ironically, what we need from you is to know what you need. Specifically, what are your research needs? The Joint Fire Science Program is the major granting agency for fire science research in the United States. This program is funding our Consortium and they are asking us for a list of the top three research needs for fire science in the Appalachian region. That is a difficult chore because there are so many. What information would help you in your job as a fire manager or fire researcher? Some folks have already given some suggestions such as smoke management, invasive plants and animals, fuel reduction impacts, basic ecology of prescribed and wild fires, a network of fire chronology information, integrated multi-disciplinary research of fire effects, restoration of target communities and species. Please give us your input. It can be as little as a few words or as much as a complete justification for the research. To provide input, join our discussion forum at CAFMS.org or email us at [helen@cafms.org](mailto:helen@cafms.org) or [tom@cafms.org](mailto:tom@cafms.org).

### Join CAFMS:

The consortium is for all land managers and researchers in the region who deal with any aspect of fire. To join, simply provide us with some contact information at the web site listed below. If you cannot follow the link, please email us and we will send it to you electronically.

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDNiUnFrYzNNVU00dkxka1hKM2p0cFE6MQ>

[www.CAFMS.org](http://www.CAFMS.org)

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