

Success Stories

Supporting Wildfire Professionals and Keeping Communities Safe



**SOUTHWEST
FIRE SCIENCE
CONSORTIUM**



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Research Supporting Sound Decisions

"The Arizona After Wildfire Guide fills a critical gap in post-wildfire recovery by providing communities with a centralized, easy-to-navigate resource that brings clarity during a time of chaos. It's a valuable tool that empowers Arizonans to take informed action during some of their most difficult days."

-Gabe Lavine, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Maximizing Impact:

Multiplying State Investment in Wildfire Solutions

In 2023-2024, the Southwest Fire Science Consortium (SWFSC) leveraged a federal investment from the Joint Fire Science Program to secure over \$640,000 from the Arizona Governor's Office as part of the Arizona Wildfire Initiative (AZWI). This strategic investment amplified wildfire education, accelerated workforce readiness, and maximized taxpayer value in a time of growing wildfire threats.

- **Leveraged federal funding:** Catalyzed a \$640,000 investment—a 40% increase in SWFSC's operating budget that tripled the SWFSC output.
- **High return on investment:** Supported Arizona Wildfire Initiative (AZWI) by reaching over 60,000 individuals across diverse formats (workshops, classroom visits, webinars, and more).
- **Invested in the workforce:** Funded \$43,000 in scholarships for training programs and produced 48 educational resources including webinars, podcasts, fact sheets, and documentaries.
- **Strategic collaboration:** Partnered with 7 working groups and thousands of wildfire professionals across federal, state, tribal, and private sectors.
- **Proven impact and scale:** Reached 6,462 attendees through in-person events and 16,000+ youth through fire ecology curriculum—with fewer than 6 full-time staff.

The Southwest Fire Science Consortium (SWFSC) gets emerging science on the ground by connecting scientists, land managers, and the public. By facilitating these connections, the SWFSC helps to assure that scientists are addressing the most pressing questions and managers are applying cutting-edge science and diverse knowledge in their efforts to protect communities and critical natural resources.

Additional funding for this project
provided by:



Read the story...

In 2023, Northern Arizona University's School of Forestry launched the Arizona Wildfire Initiative (AZWI) with funding from the Arizona Governor's Office, aiming to enhance the state's wildfire preparedness through education, workforce development, and science communication. Building on the Southwest Fire Science Consortium's 15-year track record as a trusted source for wildfire knowledge, AZWI invested \$640,000 over two years to expand SWFSC's reach and impact—leveraging ongoing support from the Joint Fire Science Program.

The result? A 40% increase in SWFSC's operating capacity that yielded triple the standard deliverables. The team produced 26 webinars, 6 podcast episodes, 2 documentaries, and 8 fact sheets—sharply expanding the reach and influence of science-backed wildfire education. These efforts reinforced SWFSC's and NAU's role as indispensable resources for fire professionals and community leaders navigating Arizona's evolving fire landscape.

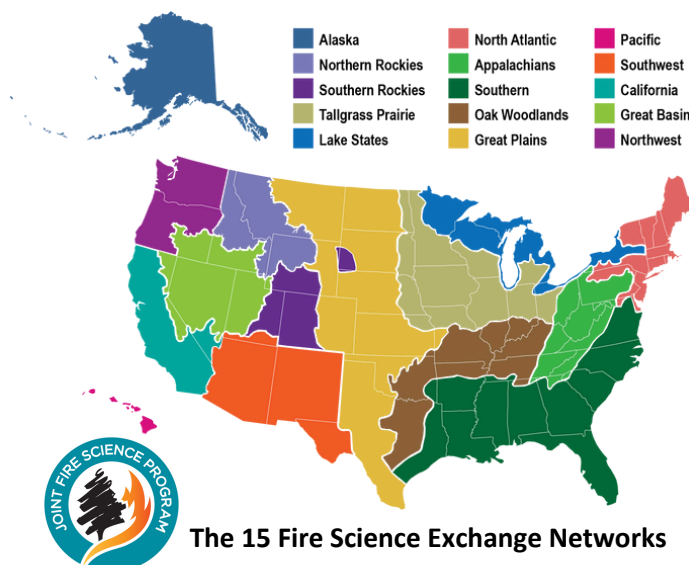
Beyond publications, the investment enabled deeper community impact. Over 6,400 participants attended in-person events. More than 19,000 subscribers engaged through newsletters. SWFSC helped train over 16,000 youth via its fire ecology curriculum and provided \$43,000 in workforce support through travel scholarships. By empowering professionals and connecting communities with actionable science, SWFSC turned strategic funding into a measurable, statewide impact—proving that smart investments deliver real returns for Arizona and the Southwest Region. 🌱



Partnering with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management to learn from fire prevention staff during the 2024 AZ Wildland Urban Fire Summit. Credit: Molly McCormick

"Thank you so much for what you do, your website and materials are incredible resources. Can you send me maps and figures from your *Fire in the Desert* report to use in collaborative meetings with Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service leadership?"

-Joshua Hurst, Arizona Game and Fish Department and Regional Supervisor in Mesa



Can't wait to dive into these resources?
Check out the SWFSC website:

