

Fire in the Interface

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Urban development adjacent to wildlands may be at risk to wildland fires. To mitigate this risk along its borders, the National Forests in Florida have purchased a Supertrax dozer to create buffer strips between the forest and adjacent development. The dozer cuts a swath through the forest by cutting and shredding all biomass and leaving behind a mulch bed. To evaluate the longevity of the fuel breaks and their effects on vegetation structure and composition, long-term monitoring plots have been established on the Osceola National Forests by researchers from the University of Florida and the USFS Southern Research Station.

For more information about this research, visit: <http://www.humanandnaturalsystems.org/research/wui-fire/efficacy-of-wui-buffers>

Upcoming Event: 4th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress

The 4th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology, will provide a forum on global wildland fire research and management. The main theme for this year's congress is "Fire as a Global Process". Concurrent sessions and a poster session will cover a wide range of topics and issues, including both contributed papers and special sessions developed on specific themes, such as fire effects, integrating science and managements, fire behavior, landscape level issues, fire history, role of technology, and human dimensions. This conference will be held from November 30 – December 4, 2009 in Savannah, Georgia.

For more information visit: <http://www.fireecology.net/Congress09/Home.html>

For more upcoming events visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/events.html>

In the News: Wildfires Burned Over 700,000 acres in Texas

Although wildfires have raged throughout the summer in California, Texas has not sent firefighters to help. That's because they have their own wildfire concerns. Texas fires have charred more than 700,000 acres this year, and the risk for more fires remains extremely high as portions of the state suffer their most severe drought in decades, along with possible lightning storms contributing to their worries. In fact, Texas is relying on outside help itself to manage their wildfire dilemma (fire experts from 19 states and crews from Alabama and Louisiana).

To read the full story, visit: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/stories/DN-fires_09met.ART.State.Edition1.4bcfd39.html

For additional current news articles on WUI topics, visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/inthenews.html>

Literature: Fire in the South 2

The South consistently has the highest number of wildfires per year of any region in the U.S. To address the significant wildfire problem in the South, all 13 southern states and several Federal agencies pooled their resources to conduct a regional Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment. Fire in the South 2 explains the objectives of the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment, presents the key findings, and demonstrates through case studies some of its practical application.

To read the full publication, visit: <http://www.southernwildfirerisk.com/reports/FireInTheSouth2.pdf>

For more literature on WUI issues visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/literature.html>

Website: Encyclopedia of Southern Fire Science

This site provides a combination of peer-reviewed scientific knowledge about fire science in the southern United States. Field practitioners and the general public are able to acquire information through the use of viewer-navigated text and photos, as well as a large bibliography and access to several fire science databases. Helpful tools and topics, ranging from fire ecology to human dimensions, allow visitors to appropriately understand and manage fire.

To view this website, please visit: <http://fire.forestencyclopedia.net/>

The graphic features a dark green background with a curved, light green border. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of a tree with white and brown leaves. The text "Interface South" is written in a white, sans-serif font at the top, and "Update" is written in a white, cursive font below it.

Interface South Update

For more Web links about interface issues visit <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/websites.html>

The USDA Forest Service created Interface South to heighten awareness of and provide information about wildland-urban interface (WUI) issues, serving a diverse audience of natural resource professionals, private forestland and homeowners, planning departments, local policy-makers, and many more.

Contact Us!

If you have any questions or comments please contact Annie Hermansen-Baez, ahermansen@fs.fed.us, 352-376-3271 or the project intern at swuintern@yahoo.com