

Agency Research Needs Group Discussion Summary

The objective of this session was to identify each agency's operational or managerial issues that need more research. A key point was that research should always have an operational use.

1. Safety
2. Suppression success
3. State of knowledge summaries by topic; snap shots of different topics such as:
 - prescribed burning effectiveness;
 - effectiveness of specific mechanical treatments (e.g., mulching)
 - height conversion
 - fuel manipulation
 - fuel isolation
 - fuelbreak depth
 - better definition of fuelbreaks
4. Synthesis of successes and failures across the agencies
5. Maintenance
 - how often
 - economic evaluation (return on investment; value for dollars spent; investment alternatives)
 - social impacts
 - initial cost of treatment vs. cost to sustain treatment (lifetime cost)
6. Improved techniques for advanced data collection
7. Strategic aspect of fuel treatments—what physical characteristics given the topography etc. will make it effective (need to tie things together)
8. Equipment productivity when conducting fuel treatments
9. Assessment of individual agency or regional needs
10. Capture the information that is already out there and foster collaboration
 - document and share what works and what doesn't
 - need guidelines and a framework to build upon
11. Create a common platform for discussion (e.g., glossary) as well as a depository or common access point for the information
12. Explore existing technology that will help with sharing the information
 - who will oversee this information infrastructure?
 - how will the information be managed?
 - what will be required?
13. Need new, more effective ways to communicate the information