Knowledge for Wildfire: improving management of UK wildfire risk through knowledge exchange

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Knowledge for Wildfire

Improving management of UK wildfire risk through knowledge exchange

NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship

About us
NERC is funding a Knowledge Exchange (KE) fellowship and Knowledge for Wildfire (KfWf) project, based at the University of Manchester.

Aims
• To maximise the use of existing NERC-funded research and promote mutually beneficial new research and KE projects on wildfire;
• To assist the management of wildfire risk in the UK at all stages from prevention to response and recovery.

KE Fellow’s role
A central point of contact and knowledge broker between NERC researchers and wildfire management practitioners and policymakers.

Our objectives
• To join up emerging cross-sector and cross-disciplinary interests in UK wildfire;
• To apply and adapt NERC fire-related research to improve the evidence base for managing wildfire risk;
• To facilitate new partnership research and KE projects which address knowledge gaps.

Our activities
• Networking events: wildfire@manchester seminars and workshops; KE sessions at conferences.
• Resources: Website (www.kfwf.org.uk); briefing papers; reports; useful links.
• Awareness-raising: Attending national forums and conferences to raise awareness amongst researchers, practitioners, government agencies and other end-users.
• Advice & facilitation: Facilitating partnerships to develop new spin-off research and KE projects which address knowledge gaps.

Approach
• Apply: Existing research
• Grow network
• Adapt: End users’ data
• Connect
• Create: New partnership research
• Maintain

Key stakeholder groups
The project is supported by 26 letters of support, 18 from wildfire management practitioners and policy-makers, and eight from researchers.

We work closely with the England and Wales Wildfire Forum, other national fire forums and researchers.

England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF)
Chief Fire Officers Association, Fire Brigades Union, regional Fire & Rescue Services, Met Office, Forestry Commission, Cabinet Office, Natural Environment, Highways Agency, MoD, etc.

Moorland Association, The Heather Trust, etc.

Benefits for members
For end-users:
• Access to NERC-funded science and expertise;
• Opportunities to work with researchers and influence the research agenda;
• Add value to Incident Recording System (IRS) and other user data.

For researchers:
• Benefit from end-users’ expertise and data;
• Increase the impact of your research;
• Find out what new research end-users really want.

For both:
• Links into other networks;
• Build partnerships for funding applications;
• Improve the evidence base for management, policy making and funding applications.

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