



Fire and Fuels Research *Social Fire Science*

Forest Service social scientists seek to better understand the interactions between fire and fuel management and society.

Background

Forest Service social scientists study the socioeconomic aspects of fire and fuels management, including enhanced understanding of the costs and benefits of wildland fire. They provide guidelines and tools for improving the safety of homeowners, firefighters, and communities and develop effective practices for communicating and working with communities and other stakeholders.



Left: The 2013 Rim Fire in the Sanislaus National Forest in California approaches a Ranger Station.

Right: A home lost in the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado underscores the danger and costs associated with wildfire.

Credit (left): USDA Forest Service; *(right):* Bob Vihnanek, USDA Forest Service

Key Research:

- **Public interactions** - Research to understand how human attitudes, values, and beliefs influence fire and fuel management options and how individuals and communities respond to fire risks in the wildland-urban interface and wildland ecosystems.
- **Socioeconomic aspects of fire and fuel management** - Research to evaluate the social and economic impacts and risks of alternative fire and fuel management strategies.
- **Organizational effectiveness** - Research to develop knowledge, approaches, and tools to improve the organizational effectiveness of fire management programs.

