

Northwest Fire Science Consortium

Technical Field Tour Report¹:

Pole Creek Fire, November 2012



In September 9, 2012 a lightning strike hit the Pole Creek trailhead in the Deschutes National Forest, approximately 8 miles southwest of Sisters, Oregon. The wildfire was contained on October 17th after spreading over 26,000 acres of timber and brush.

In response to this event, the Northwest Fire Science Consortium partnered with Oregon State University (OSU) College of Forestry, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension, USFS Region 6, and the Central Oregon Fire Management

Service to offer an opportunity for in-the-field learning in the immediate post-fire environment. Targeted audiences included fire, fuels, and forest managers, and local Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) groups. Key topic areas for the field tour were identified as:

1. Fire effects in treated ponderosa pine stands
2. Lodgepole pine/mountain pine beetle/fire interactions
3. Landscape perspectives on fire behavior, effect, and management
4. Collaborative missions, with focus in the Deschutes Skyline & Lakeview Collaboratives

A technical field tour took place in the Deschutes National Forest and participants visited 3 locations within the site of the 2012 Pole Creek Fire in Sisters, OR (see map above). There were 22 attendees, including speakers and organizers.

Location 1: Fire perimeter near Three Creeks Lake.

Discussion topics:

- Fire ignition, behavior, effects, and management in high elevation and wilderness forests
- Lodgepole pine/beetle kill forests—pre-fire fuel loading, fire behavior, fire management, and post-fire effects



¹ Prepared by Janean Creighton, 2/12/13

- Fire management decisions in shaping fire patterns

Location 2: 1514/1516 Intersection

Discussion topics:

- Fire management in low elevation forests on the wildland urban interface
- The SAFR project, silvicultural and fuels treatment effectiveness
- Mechanical fuels treatments as preparation for using wildfire as management tool



Location 2: Landscape viewpoint on 1516 road

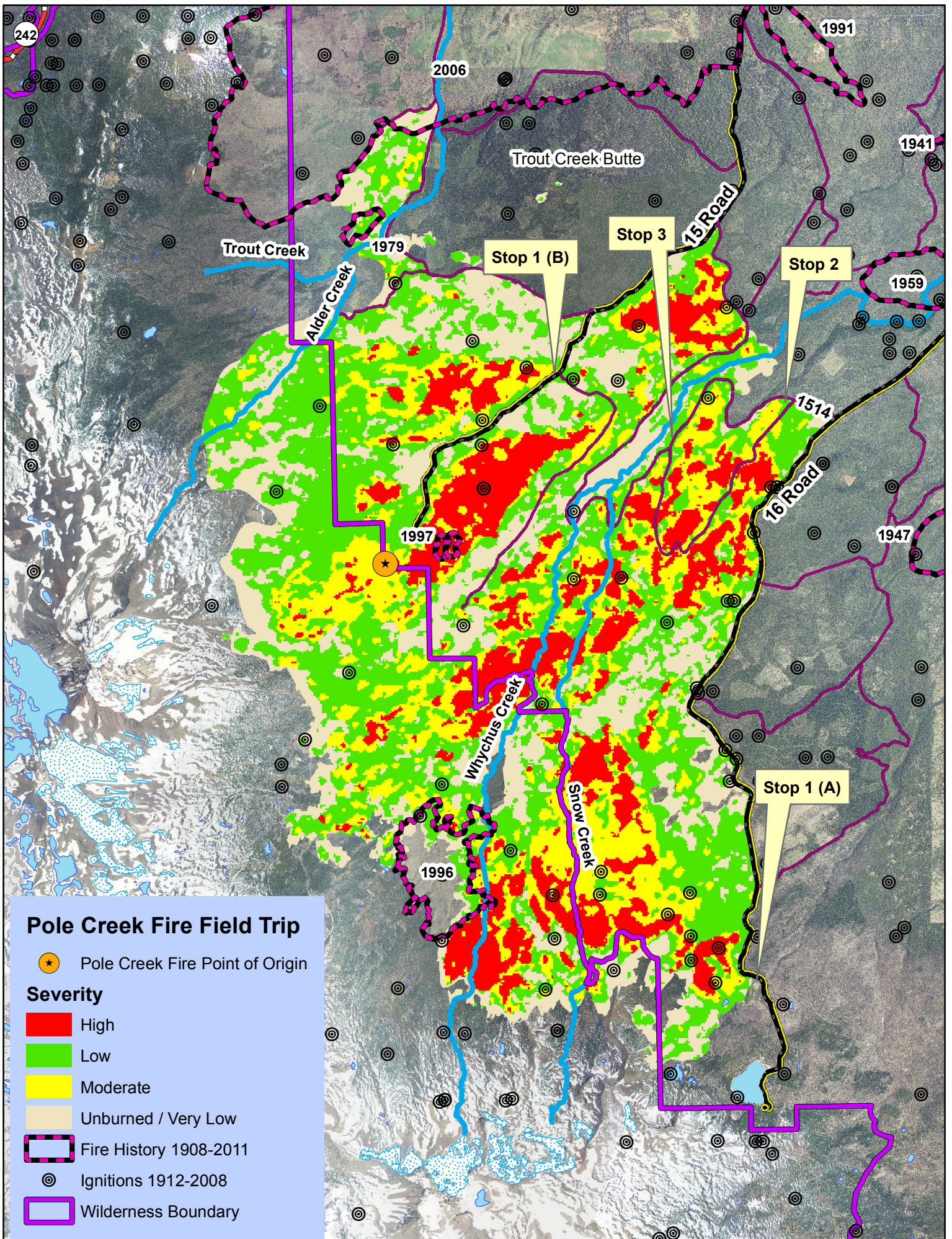
Discussion topics:

- Wildfire, fire management, and landscape implications
- Effects of fire, insects, and management in shaping landscape pattern

General Evaluation Results

Using a Likert scale where 1=poor and 5=great (reporting average rating)

1. Opportunities to engage with others on the tour - 4.50
2. The mix of people on the tour - 4.33
3. Overall satisfaction with the tour - 4.33
4. Material presented and discussed - 4.5
5. Discussion at Location 1 - 4.17
6. Discussion at Location 2 - 4.67
7. Discussion at Location 3 - 4.67
8. Level of discussion specificity - 4.33
9. Overall delivery of material - 4.33



1. General Feedback

	1 = poor	2	3	4	5 = great	Rating Average	Response Count
The scheduling (date, time, length) of the event was...	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)	3.50	6
The facilities used (vehicles, buildings) were...	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	16.7% (1)	3.67	6
The pace of the day was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (3)	50.0% (3)	4.50	6
answered question							6
skipped question							0

2. Feedback about the material

	1 = poor	2	3	4	5 = great	Rating Average	Response Count
Overall, the material presented and discussed was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (3)	50.0% (3)	4.50	6
The welcome and background were...	0.0% (0)	40.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	40.0% (2)	3.60	5
The discussion at Stop 1 (Three Creeks Lake) was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	50.0% (3)	33.3% (2)	4.17	6
The discussion at Stop 2 (1514/1615 Intersection) was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	66.7% (4)	4.67	6
The discussion at Stop 3 (1516 Viewpoint) was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	66.7% (4)	4.67	6
The wrap-up was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	80.0% (4)	20.0% (1)	4.20	5
The level of specificity for the discussion was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (4)	33.3% (2)	4.33	6
The overall delivery of the material was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (4)	33.3% (2)	4.33	6
					Other (please specify)		1
					answered question		6
					skipped question		0

3. Networking opportunities

	1 = poor	2	3	4	5 = great	Rating Average	Response Count
The opportunities to engage others on the tour were...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (3)	50.0% (3)	4.50	6
The mix of people on this tour was...	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	50.0% (3)	4.33	6
answered question							6
skipped question							0

4. Overall

	1 = poor	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Overall satisfaction with the tour	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (4)	33.3% (2)	4.33	6
answered question							6
skipped question							0

5. Comments about the material

	Response Count
	3
answered question	3
skipped question	3

6. Comments about the opportunities to network:

	Response Count
	4
answered question	4
skipped question	2

7. We are interested in what YOU found most valuable about this field tour experience. Please rank values below by placing a "1" in front of the statement that indicates what you found most valuable (1 = most valuable, 8 = least valuable) for what you found least valuable.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pole Creek Fire background, suppression information, and general facts	33.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	0.0% (0)
Being an observer and learner on the tour	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Being able to ask questions of the presenters	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	33.3% (2)	0.0% (0)
Mingling and engaging with other tour participants	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)
Discussion about the collaborative efforts in the area	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Discussion of fuel treatment effectiveness	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
Discussion of effects of insects shaping fire and landscape patterns	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	0.0% (0)
Other	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	83.3% (5)
Other	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	16.7% (1)

8. Overall favorite thing about the tour:

	Response Count
	5
answered question	5
skipped question	1

9. Overall least favorite thing about the tour

	Response Count
	5
answered question	5
skipped question	1

10. To help us understand your responses, please tell us your role in forest/fire management and your area of expertise: (e.g., agency biologist or NGO education – name and identifying info NOT necessary)

	Response Count
	6
answered question	6
skipped question	0

11. Additional comments:

	Response Count
	4
answered question	4
skipped question	2

Page 2, Q2. Feedback about the material

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Scheduling a long day on a Fri. usually will limit full participation by the Federal Partners, particularly on the last Fri. of the pay period. That is why a large number of the Feds bugged out at noon. | Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM |
|---|--|----------------------|

Page 2, Q5. Comments about the material

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Material presented was excellent. Some maps at the "welcome & background" could have been larger or perhaps electronic links could have been sent out in advance. | Nov 21, 2012 9:06 AM |
| 2 | The material provided was about right. It provided enough information to facilitate the discussion but was not overwhelming in terms of volume. | Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM |
| 3 | Not enough description of the NW Fire Consortium at the beginning | Nov 19, 2012 1:29 PM |

Page 2, Q6. Comments about the opportunities to network:

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Opportunities to network during the day were good, especially at the lunch stop. A followup email with the names and email addresses of all who attended would be helpful for future networking opportunities. It would help jog the memory for names of people. Also, since this was a multi-agency tour, having a list of names and emails would make it easier to contact individuals. | Nov 21, 2012 9:06 AM |
| 2 | Very appreciative of the opportunity to | Nov 20, 2012 4:14 PM |
| 3 | Networking opportunities were excellent. One suggestion would be to ask folks to cross pollinate in the vehicles since a great deal of discussion and networking happens during drive time. If each vehicle is full of people from the same organization who already know each other, there is less opportunity for networking. | Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM |
| 4 | Didn't feel exactly like I had a lot of opportunities to network, but definitely had some opportunities that I targeted and those were great. | Nov 19, 2012 2:45 PM |

Page 2, Q8. Overall favorite thing about the tour:

1	A day rich with learning opportunities. I found all of the above equally valuable so although I rated them, I would not have omitted or decreased time devoted to any of the items.	Nov 21, 2012 9:06 AM
2	Diversity of attendees and information sharing across disciplines	Nov 20, 2012 4:14 PM
3	Good diverse group from a variety of backgrounds which provided for robust discussions with many perspectives.	Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM
4	The diverse group of people from different places engaged in a great discussion!	Nov 19, 2012 2:45 PM
5	exposure to various research efforts that are going on	Nov 19, 2012 1:29 PM

Page 2, Q9. Overall least favorite thing about the tour

1	That we failed to adequately inform line officers ahead of time so as to be able to include them.	Nov 20, 2012 4:14 PM
2	Poor logistical planning on the first stop with a snowy/icy road and inadequate vehicles. A little bit of recon the previous day or so could have mitigated that and plans could have been adjusted.	Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM
3	No being able to get to see an area due to weather.	Nov 19, 2012 2:45 PM
4	Lack of introduction to establish purpose and goals. In addition, there was no introduction of the fire consortium and what its role is. Several participants were confused about it.	Nov 19, 2012 1:50 PM
5	challenges of winter field activities	Nov 19, 2012 1:29 PM

Page 2, Q10. To help us understand your responses, please tell us your role in forest/fire management and your area of expertise: (e.g., agency biologist or NGO education – name and identifying info NOT necessary)

1	Agency scientist -- postfire soils research	Nov 21, 2012 9:06 AM
2	federal fire and fuels management	Nov 20, 2012 4:14 PM
3	Agency Fire Management Specialist	Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM
4	University research - fire and forest ecology	Nov 19, 2012 2:45 PM
5	Researcher	Nov 19, 2012 1:50 PM
6	local partner	Nov 19, 2012 1:29 PM

Page 2, Q11. Additional comments:

1	Excellent tour!	Nov 21, 2012 9:06 AM
2	Looking forward to the next trip!	Nov 20, 2012 4:14 PM
3	Overall, I thought it was an excellent tour with very good discussion. I believe that most folks got some good take home nuggets of info from each other.	Nov 20, 2012 9:24 AM
4	survey question number 7 does not work	Nov 19, 2012 1:29 PM



Pole Creek Field Tour – Evaluation
November 16, 2012

The Northwest Fire Science Consortium and the USFS Region 6 Ecology and Fuels Management Program value your feedback about this tour. Please take a couple of minutes to respond to the questions below so that we can improve future opportunities. Further suggestions are always welcome – please contact Janean Creighton at 541-750-7316 or at nw.fireconsortium@oregonstate.edu.

General feedback	Poor	← (Circle one) →			Great
The scheduling (date, time, length) of this event was...	1	2	3	4	5
The facilities used (vehicles and buildings) were...	1	2	3	4	5
The pace of today was...	1	2	3	4	5
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Feedback about the material					
Overall, the material presented and discussed was...	1	2	3	4	5
The welcome and background were...	1	2	3	4	5
The discussion at Stop 1 (Three Creeks Lake) was...	1	2	3	4	5
The lunch discussion was...	1	2	3	4	5
The discussion at Stop 2 (1514/1615 Intersection) was...	1	2	3	4	5
The discussion at Stop 3 (1516 Viewpoint) was...	1	2	3	4	5
The wrap-up was...	1	2	3	4	5
The level of specificity for the discussion was...	1	2	3	4	5
The overall delivery of the material was...	1	2	3	4	5
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Networking opportunities					
The opportunities to engage others on the tour were...	1	2	3	4	5
The mix of people on this tour was...	1	2	3	4	5
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Overall satisfaction with the tour	1	2	3	4	5

Comments about the material:

Comments about the opportunities to network:

We are interested in what YOU found most valuable about this field tour experience. Please rank order the potential values below by placing a “1” in front of the statement that indicates what you found most valuable, down to a “7” (or more) for what you found least valuable.

- _____ Pole Creek Fire background, suppression information, and general facts
- _____ Being an observer and learner on the tour
- _____ Being able to ask questions of the presenters
- _____ Mingling and engaging with other tour participants
- _____ Discussion about the collaborative efforts in the area
- _____ Discussion of fuel treatment effectiveness
- _____ Discussion of effects of insects shaping fire and landscape patterns
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Overall favorite thing about the tour:

Overall least favorite thing about the tour:

To help us understand your responses, please tell us your role in forest/fire management and your area of expertise: *(e.g., agency biologist or NGO education – name and identifying info NOT necessary)*

Additional comments: